

Andrew Jackson to Abbe Dabory, January 19, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO ABBÉ GUILLAUME DUBOURG.¹

¹ Jackson MSS., Letter-Book H, p. 228. A copy, with some variations in expression, in the handwriting of Major Reid, and also in the Jackson MSS., is perhaps a draft. The Abbé Dubourg was apostolic administrator of the diocese of Louisiana and the Floridas. Dec. 18, 1814, he issued a mandate to the clergy and laity of New Orleans to pray for the success of the American arms (*Niles' Register*, VII. 379). His reply to Jackson's suggestion of a day of thanksgiving was as follows:

“ *General*, Your note of yesterday has just been delivered to me. The truly christian feelings which it expresses on the subject of the signal interposition of Heaven in favour of our sacred cause, whilst they reflect a new lustre on your memorable exploits, will no doubt be warmly responded to by your gallant Brethren in arms and by all the classes of our exulting citizens. But in none should they excite livelier emotions than in the Ministers of that Almighty Being, whose glory never can shine more conspicuous, than when He beholds victorious Heroes depositing at his feet their unfaded laurels, and returning to him all the merit of their most wonderful atchievements. Your desire of having a day of solemn thanksgivings appointed is eagerly seconded. I wish you had yourself named the day. Mr. Livingston proposed Sunday next; But besides that the shortness of the notice would hardly give time to make the necessary preparations, it is my opinion that the setting apart a particular day in the week for the purpose, might contribute to give a greater eclat to the solemnity. I will then, with due deference to yr. commands, propose *next Tuesday*, and on the first intimation of your wishes, I will make the dispositions for the ceremony, the

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brightest ornament of which, will certainly be *yourself*, General, surrounded by your brave army.”

[Below New Orleans,] January 19, 1815.

Revd. Sir, The signal interposition of heaven; in giving success to our arms against the Enemy, who: so lately landed on our Shores, an enemy as powerfull, as Inveterate in his hatred, While it must excite in every bosome attatched to the happy Goverment under which we live, emotions of the liveliest gratitude, requires at the same time some manifestation of those feelings

Permit me therefore to entreat that you will cause the service of public thanksgiving to be performed in the Cathedral in token at once of the great assistance we have recd. from the *ruler of all Events* and of our humble sense of it.

With the greatest respect I am Sir